

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6600

BILL NUMBER: HB 1236

DATE PREPARED: Dec 4, 1998

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Hunting on part of the St. Joseph River.

FISCAL ANALYST: Brian Tabor

PHONE NUMBER: 233-9456

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill prohibits shooting with a firearm from the part of the St. Joseph River that lies between the Twin Branch Dam and the St. Joseph County and Elkhart County lines.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources may incur minimal expenditures as a result of this bill. These expenses would be related to public notification of the changes and could be absorbed within the Division's current budget.

Explanation of State Revenues: This bill prohibits the use of firearms on a certain section of the St. Joseph River. According to current law, violating this provision would constitute a Class C misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund could increase. The maximum fine for a Class C misdemeanor is \$500. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, county or municipal court (courts of record), 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: A Class C misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the

county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed, and if collected would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed, and if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: